



# Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 28th, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Finance Committee  
Room 3  
Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 277 – Health Equality for Service Members Act**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support w/ amendments for SB 277 Health Equality for Service Members Act.

This bill establishes rules of interpretation related to the uniformed services; alters the rule of interpretation for "veteran"; and alters the application of certain provisions of law governing public health, the regulation of health occupations, and housing vouchers and assistance to apply to all uniformed services, rather than only the armed forces.

The Board supports the bill's intentions in supporting veterans, and offers amendments to align the statutory changes made to the Health Occupations chapter as it refers to professions under the Boards jurisdiction. Specifically, the bill alters language in the electrology section, and the amendments we are putting forward would make identical the relevant sections referring to Registered Nurses, Nursing Assistants and Dialysis Technicians, Medication Technicians, Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives, and Licensed Certified Midwives.

## Amendment to Senate Bill 277

On page 18 line 14 add

8-316 (a)(3)

Is disciplined by a licensing[, military,] or disciplinary authority [in this] **OF ANY** State [or in any other state] or country, [or] convicted or disciplined by a court [in this] **OF ANY** State [or in any other state] or country, **OR DISCIPLINED BY AND BRANCH OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION** for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes;

8-6A-10(a)(3)

Is disciplined by a licensing[, military,] or disciplinary authority [in this] **OF ANY** State [or in any other state] or country, [or] convicted or disciplined by a court [in this] **OF ANY**

State [or in any other state] or country, **OR DISCIPLINED BY AND BRANCH OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION** for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes;

On page 18 line 23

8-6c-20(a)(3)

Is disciplined by a licensing[, military,] or disciplinary authority [in this State or in any other state or country], **OF ANY STATE OR COUNTRY**, convicted or disciplined by a court [in this State or in any other state or country] **OF ANY STATE OR COUNTRY**, or disciplined by [a branch of the United States] **ANY BRANCH OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION** for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes;

8-6d-10(a)(3)

Is disciplined by a licensing[, military,] or disciplinary authority [in this State or in any other state or country], **OF ANY STATE OR COUNTRY**, convicted or disciplined by a court [in this State or in any other state or country] **OF ANY STATE OR COUNTRY**, or disciplined by [a branch of the United States] **ANY BRANCH OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION** for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes;

Thank you again for your time. For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-585-2049 or [mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov](mailto:mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov), or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at 410-585-1953 or [rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov](mailto:rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



Christine Lechliter  
Board President

**The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.**